

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to delete reference to provisional U.S. Application No. 60/115,786 and to claim priority to related applications Serial No. 09/462,656 (the '656 Application) and Serial No. 08/933,566, now U.S. 6,083,260 (the '260 Patent). Walid Aboul-Hosn is an inventor common to the instant application, the '656 Application, and the '260 Patent. A Petition for an Unintentionally Delayed Benefit Claim pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.78 has been filed, a copy of which is submitted herewith (Attachment A).

Claims 1-9 remain pending in the application.

The claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Aboul-Hosn U.S. 6,083,260 (the '260 Patent). Applicant's claim of priority to the '260 Patent removes the '260 Patent as prior art as to the instant application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks and allowance of claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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9 November 2004
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A-Met/16828/041109 AMENDMENT B

Enclosures: RCE Transmittal Letter
Attachment A
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